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Toiyabe 2 9 2003



NF'S CATALOGING

Weed Reserve

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Free

aSB193 .H84 2003

Forage

Requirements



US Department of Agriculture Forest Service Intermountain Region **Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest**



Nevada Department of Agriculture



Sierra County Agricultural Commission



Plumas County Agricultural Commission

What is this new program?



On February 11, 2003, the Regional Forester for the Intermountain Region signed a special order requiring certified weed free hay on all National Forest System lands within the States of Nevada, Utah, southern Idaho, western Wyoming, and portions of Colorado and the Eastern Sierras in California.

How would it affect you?

All users of National Forest System lands in Nevada, including recreationists, would need to pack weed free forage when going onto the National Forest.

Certifiable forage products include:

- Straw (grain and seeds)
- Alfalfa/grass hay
- Alfalfa hay
- · Grain hay
- Grass hay

The Humboldt-Toiyabe N.F. will allow forage certified by any State as long as it meets the Regional Forage Certification Standards followed in Idaho, Colorado, Montana, Utah, Wyoming, Nevada or California.*

Why is there a need for weed free hav?

Noxious weeds on public lands are spreading at an alarming rate. Leafy Spurge, Spotted knapweed, Yellow starthistle, and other noxious weeds, are alien to the United States and there are no natural processes to keep their populations in balance. These weeds have been designated "noxious," harmful, or injurious, by law.

Why be concerned?

- · Noxious weeds interrupt visual quality, aesthetic values and functions of natural ecosystems.
- Noxious weeds can reduce forage production for livestock and wildlife, which reduces



recreation and hunting quality.

 Noxious weeds displace native vegetation; in turn, reducing wildlife habitat, ecosystem biodiversity and increasing erosion rates of sediment into streams

How are noxious weeds spread?

One way noxious weeds can be spread is through hay, straw, or other forage carried onto a National Forest, where plants take root. One plant can produce thousands of seeds, which can remain viable for several years. Wind, water, wild animals, birds, livestock, vehicles, and people can all carry seeds from mature plants on to agricultural lands, private property, or to other State or Federal lands.

What can you do?

- Avoid setting up camp in a weedinfested area, or riding stock animals or vehicles through them.
- · Drive only on established roads and trails away from weed infested areas.
- When using pack animals, carry only feed that is certified weed free.
- Within 96 hours before entering the backcountry, feed livestock only feed that is certified weed free
- · Remove seeds from livestock by brushing manes and tails, and cleaning hooves.
- · If you find a few weeds without flowers or seeds, pull and leave them. If flowers or seeds are present, place the weeds in a plastic bag or similar container and burn them in a safe place.
- If you find a weed-infested area, let the landowner or land management agency know so they can take steps to control the infestation.



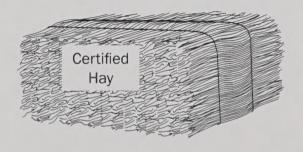


Where can you buy weed free hay?

The Nevada Department of Agriculture, and the local county extension and California County Agriculture Commission can provide a list of growers who sell certified weed free forage. This list is periodically updated. Copies of the list are also available at your local Forest Service office.

How will you know if it's certified?

After a field is inspected, the producer receives a certificate of inspection. The producer or seller will provide you with certification that the forage meets State weed or weed free requirements. This certification may be in the form of tags on the product or a transit certificate issued by the state.



Where can you get more information?

Contact the following individuals, or any county weed supervisor for further information:

Nevada Department of Agriculture

Dawn Rafferty: 775-688-1182

Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Brett Glover:

775-738-5171

Plumas and Sierra Counties

Agricultural Commissioner: 530-283-6365

Lassen County

Agricultural Commissioner: 530-251-8110

El Dorado and Alpine Counties

Agricultural Commissioner 530-621-5520

Mono and Inyo Counties

Agricultural Commissioner: 760-873-7860

Web pages:

www.fs.fed.us/htnf http://www.invaders.nvblm.gov http://agri.state.nv.us/nwac http://pi.cdfa.ca.gov/weed/wff/

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